

Moving overseas as a military spouse can be stressful, but a program at Lajes helps spouses make the adjustment to the Azores easier. Page 2.

First Look

Valentine sale

The Lajes Officers Spouses Club is having a Valentine's Day create-a-bouquet flower sale Friday, Saturday and Monday at the Commissary, with a bake sale Saturday. Cost of bouquets vary with choice of flowers.

Fish dinner

The African American Awareness Committee will sponsor a fish fry from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Chapel. The plate will consist of catfish, fries, hushpuppies, corn on the cob and drink for only \$5.

Candy gram

The 65th Contracting Squadron Booster club will deliver candy grams on Valentine's Day. Cost is \$2 each or 3 for \$5 and includes a bag of assorted candy with choice of 4 sayings. To place an order, call 2nd Lt. Karin Tjelmeland at 2-3123 or Airman 1st Class Bethany Schwartzkopf at 2-6855.

Idol contest

The Lajes/USAFE Idol is at 9 p.m. Feb. 19 at the Top of the Rock Club.

Flea market

The next flea market is from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Feb. 19 at the Lajes Youth Center, Bldg. T-240. For more information, call 2-4135.

Preflight

■ Days since last DUI...23
 ■ DUIs since Jan. 1.....1
 ■ Current AEF..... 3 & 4
 ■ Current FPCON..... Alpha
 ■ Combat Nighthawk: Capt. Kari Fletcher, 65th Air Base Wing; Master Sgt. Hughes-Thomas, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron



The 65th Civil Engineer Squadron proved to have the best commercial during the Superbowl game at the Top of the Rock Club Sunday. They were one of five teams to participate. Each team had to produce a commercial about their favorite Combat or Special Interest Program. CE's commercial was about Combat Proud. More than \$1,200 was raised for the LADD van. (Photo by Capt. Yvonne Levardi)

Local commercials score

By Staff Sgt. Olenda Kleffner
 Crossroads editor

During the Super Bowl game at the Top of the Rock Club Sunday, Team Lajes members raised more than \$1,200 with their creative commercials.

"AFN understands that the Superbowl is more than a football game - it's practically a holiday," said Master Sgt. Christopher Beckwith, Det. 6 Air Force News Agency chief. "People watch the festivities for a number of reasons besides the game - pre-game specials, halftime shows and of course the new advertisements that debut during the game."

This was the perfect opportunity to let Team Lajes members create their own Superbowl commercials.

"Since AFN doesn't air commercials, Col. Barbara Jacobi (65th Air Base Wing commander) asked us to find a way to incorporate the new commercial idea into the game," Sergeant Beckwith said. "Rather than AFN producing the commercials, we thought it would be a great opportunity for each unit to produce its own commercial and debut them during the game. It served several purposes - unit pride, increase the base understanding of the AFN mission, promote club membership, increase awareness of the CSIP programs and benefit a worthy cause - all in one."

Each team had to produce a commercial about their favorite Combat or Special Interest Program.

The five groups who participated, represented the 65th Civil Engineer Squadron, Combat Proud; 65th Communications Squadron, Combat Program Consultant; 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron, Combat Fitness; 65th Security Forces Squadron, Combat Program overview and the base first sergeants, Combat Wingman.

Each commercial aired about five times through-

out the game and all of the commercials were shown during half time at the club.

"People voted with their wallet - a penny per vote," Sergeant Beckwith said. "That means, the team with the most money in its coffers at the end of the night won the contest. We had a tremendous turnout and Team Lajes voted often."

While the 65th CS had the lead the majority of the night, the 65th CES came back in the end and won by less than \$10. Every penny of the \$1,256.14 raised went to the LADD van.

"We chose Combat Proud because not only do we in CES live it every day, but so do the rest of the folks at Lajes Field," said Maj. Michael Nelson, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron Operations Flight commander. "At times it seems that Combat Proud activities really encompass a lot of our site picture, and this gave us a good opportunity to poke fun at the program. Nonetheless, COMUSAFE's message behind Combat Proud is that the way we take care of our working and living environments is a reflection of the way we take care of the mission. It comes down to pride in ownership - ownership of our environment and ownership of the mission."

Maj. Nelson said in order for his team to be original, they had to be creative and do a lot of brainstorming, but it was worth it in the end.

"When we've gone on some of the Combat Proud drive-arounds with wing leadership, it's not hard to notice that the theme of Combat Proud has taken on a life of its own and spread across the base," Maj. Nelson said. "Our Air Base 4 hosts are even advo-

This one's for the spouses

By Family Support Center staff

Moving overseas as a military spouse can be stressful, but a program at Lajes helps spouses make the adjustment to the Azores easier.

Family Readiness Azorean Mission Enhancement – known locally as FRAME – is a program the family support center offers that provides information to spouses on benefits, military processes and procedures, and the Lajes Field mission and location.

"It's imperative spouses gain knowledge and have an understanding of this mission because they are a vital link to the success of that mission," said Lauren Jackson, family support center inbound team leader. "FRAME is designed to give our spouses an inside look at what Team Lajes is doing to ensure expeditionary air power gets to the fight."

The class also provides information about education opportunities and social organizations at Lajes, she said.

"Most importantly, the class offers cultural awareness about Azorean history and customs, and provides support and camaraderie to new members of the Lajes Com-

munity," Ms. Jackson said. "On the second day of class, a shopping tour to Praia is offered, which is a great way to explore the culture and become more at ease with the transition overseas."

On the tour, spouses are taken to Praia and shown the shopping areas as well as the locations of some of the municipal buildings.

"The tour offers spouses the comfort of knowing how to get things done off base," said Iria Gronke, family support center tour guide and cultural advisor. "Whether you want to shop or pay a bill, the tour acclimates you to downtown and the options you have there."

"My favorite thing about the class was meeting new people," said Leslie Eads, wife of Master Sgt. Daniel Eads, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron. "It is always nice to say hello to those friendly faces and catch up when you see them around base."

The FRAME class is held the second Thursday and Friday of the month at the FSC. Need child care? The family support center will provide a day-pass for child care to the active-duty member. For more information or to sign up, call 2-4138.

Movie night



Lajes children watch movies during the youth movie night at the chapel Jan. 28. The next youth movie night is scheduled for 7 p.m. Feb. 25. For more information, call Chaplain (Capt.) David Knight at 2-4211. (Photo by James O'Rear)



SOLD!

(Above) Col. Fred Hannan, 65th Medical Group commander, Capt. Tammy Pokorney, 65th Medical Support Squadron, Col. Barbara Jacobi, 65th Air Base Wing commander, Col. Danny Leonard, 65th ABW vice commander and Col. Michael Silver, 65th Mission Support Group commander, work the crowd at the Company Grade Officer Council Celebrity Auction fundraiser at the Top of the Rock Club Feb. 4. The colonels donned chef hats and coats to advertise their services as Captain Pokorney auctioned off a "Casa de los Coronels" dinner that offered a Mexican dinner for eight with drinks catered by the four colonels at the wing commander's house. The offer went for the highest bid of \$620 in the live auction of 41 items.

(Right) Capt. Robbie Wheeler, 65th Medical Operations Squadron, surveys the 22 items donated by celebrities and sports stars. The annual event is open to the entire base population and takes donations to be auctioned off alongside celebrity donations. Total bids brought in more than \$3,500, part of which will go to scholarships and chapel charities. (Photos by 1st Lt. Aaron Wiley)



Eurofighter makes first trans-atlantic trip

**Story and photos by
1st Lt. Aaron Wiley
Deputy, public affairs**

A British Royal Air Force Eurofighter touched down and spent the night at Lajes last week on the Eurofighter's first trans-atlantic flight ever, during a trip from England to California.

Mark Bowman, Eurofighter Project Pilot, and Flight Lieutenant Nick Felgate, RAF pilot, were greeted by Team Lajes after their Eurofighter, also called the Typhoon, landed here.

The Typhoon is the new premier aircraft for the British, German, Italian and Spanish Air Forces, whose countries united in a European consortium to produce the aircraft.

The visiting aircraft is RAF's sixth production Typhoon, the BT005, which is still in its training program and is scheduled to go operational April 1.

The British version of the Eurofighter was on its way to California for an operational evaluation of flight-test instrumentation fit into its cockpit by BAE Systems, one of Britain's Typhoon producers.

"This is the first Typhoon crossing the Atlantic ... it is slightly unique," said John Wiggall, flight-test engineer for BAE Systems. "This aircraft is at a pretty high-standard ... because it's a development airplane."

According to Corporal Mike Firby, 17th Squadron flight line, airframe and engine engineer at RAF Coningsby, the Eurofighter is the "modern future."

"It's going to take over most of our older aircraft initially and move

on to do a lot of what some of the current aircraft are doing now," he said. "It's no party piece at the minute; it can take off in probably less than three hundred yards, and it goes straight up like a rocket."

"You've got the foreplanes and everything else; it just gets off the floor, points up and goes straight up, right up to the top. It's got a ceiling of 62K feet, so it'll just keep going," the corporal said.

Mr. Wiggall explained that the foreplanes, on the nose of the aircraft, are one of the reasons for the aircraft's agility.

"The aircraft is quadruplex fly-by-wire, which means you've got four flight control computers that all talk to each other and keep the aircraft flying," he said. "The foreplanes give the aircraft its agility. When it's flying, the foreplanes are straight like a wing. They're down now because it's parked, but the foreplanes also come down for liftoff and for drag on landings; they slow you down like an airbag."

Ed Townshend, Wiggall's co-worker and fellow flight engineer, said they also constantly move to correct for the aircraft and keep it flying.

"The Typhoon is like the F-16; it needs computers to keep it stabilized. The foreplanes constantly correct because the aircraft will either be trying to go one way or the other; so now it's more stable," said Mr. Townshend. "And because it's trying to go one way naturally, you just let it go and then catch it with the foreplanes so it can turn a lot faster."

"That's why it can take off in such a short distance ... we're talk-



Foreplanes, on the nose of the aircraft, are one of the reasons for the Typhoon's agility. They also help stabilize the aircraft during flight.

ing it breaks off to airborne in five seconds with a full load of missiles on it and climbing vertically ... that's with full fuel load as well."

The two Eurojet EJ200 engines are products of a Eurojet consortium, with Rolls Royce as the largest partner for the British. According to the flight engineers, the jet can travel at over Mach 2.

"The aircraft can fly at two times the speed of sound. We take you to Mach 2 because that's what we're contracted to do," said Mr. Townshend. "It'll go faster ... but its published speed is Mach 2."

Corporal Firby, who just finished working with the British aerospace company who assembled the aircraft, said the engines are the success story of the Eurojet.

"It never takes off on reheat (afterburner) if it doesn't want to. It doesn't need reheat to take off; it's that powerful," Corporal Firby said. "It just takes off in reheat for fun because it can. Normally, it'll take off on 85 to 93 percent and off it goes. It's a very very powerful engine."

One of the Typhoon engines has about as much power as both engines in the Tornado, one of the current RAF fighter jets, he said.

"So now you've got two of them, and these are not fully rated yet, they can be tweaked even more," Corporal Firby said. "The success story of the aircraft is the engine."

"The Typhoon will turn on a sixpence, it's very very sharp," he added. "And the radar can acqui-

sition up to 20 targets. It just knows they're there, so it prioritizes and it takes one as it needs it, then it goes on. That's mainly what its forte is, but it has some pretty clever defensive aids as well, which is what we're going to test," he said.

The flight-test fleet needs California's airspace to conduct their tests, Mr. Townshend said, because in England the Typhoon is limited to small pockets of airspace thronged by jetliners on every side.

"We've got five developmental aircraft at the factory in Warton, England, but this particular aircraft is going to California to do some specific testing," said Mr. Townshend. "We're going to use facilities that we haven't got in the UK. You guys have got a very good instrumented range; that's what we want."



Two Eurojet EJ200 engines power the Typhoon, one of which has about as much power as both engines in the Tornado F3, one of the current RAF fighter jets.



A British Royal Air Force Eurofighter touched down and spent the night at Lajes last week on the Eurofighter's first trans-atlantic flight ever, during a trip from England to California.



Safety drill

The Lajes Elementary School practiced a tornado drill, shelter-in-place drill and an earthquake drill during safety week Feb. 1-3. The drills taught the students proper safety techniques in case of emergencies. (Photos by Guido Melo)

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cates, which is what inspired our final message in the commercial, 'Combat Proud, It's Contagious.' We also wanted to exaggerate the impact that Combat Proud could have, so why not go all the way with ending the Global War on Terrorism?"

The major said while this was a great experience for his team, it also gave him a better understanding of how the people at AFN work.

"Staff Sgt. Josh Gray (Det. 6 NCOIC of TV production) helped us see what the great staff at AFN does each time they produce a spot, giving us a greater respect for the difficulty involved," he said. "Our first run-through was over a minute and we quickly realized how hard it is to communicate everything you want to say in 30 seconds. We had to take most of our jokes out of the script and make them hidden messages within the commercial."

Major Nelson said this contest was a great way to spread the Combat Proud message.

"We in CE know that Combat Proud is the true mission at Lajes Field and this was the opportunity to bring that home to a wide audience," he said. "We applaud AFN for the great idea to do the commercials, and hope the com-

petition continues. Tying the competition to supporting the TORC as well as raising funds for LADD was a good touch. Even though it appears that the voting came down to the deepest pockets, we know that at the end of the day, the best commercial won."

Besides bringing attention to the Combat programs, the money raised from the commercials will also help fund the LADD van, said Staff Sgt. Shawn Brown, 65 Mission Support Squadron.

"The LADD Van on average costs approximately \$150 a month to run," Sergeant Brown said. "With the donation from AFN, this will keep us on the road to help the Lajes community for at least the next eight months."

He said before the donation, the account for the van was in the red from some repair costs.

"I have such a vested interest in the program that I used my own pocket for many of the expenses to get it back on the road," Sergeant Brown said. "LADD is strictly run on donations only. Just as the baggers at the commissary are there to provide a service for you, we operate the same way."

To volunteer to drive out of the normal squadron monthly cycle, e-mail or call Sergeant Brown at shawn.brown@lajes.af.mil or call 2-1144.

For those who didn't participate in producing a commercial this year, don't worry – there will be a chance to try again next year.

"We intend to make this an annual event," Sergeant Beckwith said. "We even designed the trophy as something that could be passed from winner to winner. Each winning team autographs the AFN football and the year they won."



After winning first place in the commercial contest, Maj. Michael Nelson, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron Operations Flight commander, signs the winning football trophy, which is something that can be passed from winner to winner. Each winning team autographs the AFN football and the year they won. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Marty Rush)

Maj. Nelson gave a list of hidden messages to look for next time the commercial airs:

- Who is the terrorist of the quarter?
- Who manufactured the terrorist bomb vests?
- Did you notice the bomb vests only operate at 60Hz?
- Did you notice that one of the terrorists has a Project SMART reflective belt?
- Once the terrorists decided to do self-help, did you notice that they put on an LRS hat?
- How many terrorists are in the cave?
- The terrorists spoofed an AFN spot about not being able to take pictures on base.



Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Beckwith, Det. 6 Air Force News Agency chief, congratulates Master Sgt. Eddie Gilliam, 65th Security Forces Squadron, after he won an Xbox during the Superbowl drawings. About 15 prizes were given away throughout the night. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Marty Rush)



Staff Sgt. Shawn Brown, Rising IV president, holds a \$1,256.14 check for the LADD van. The money was raised during the Superbowl commercial contest. (Photo by Capt. Yvonne Levardi)

February is Black History Month

Americans have recognized February as black history month since 1926.

"Black Americans should celebrate this month because all of us should know where we came from and the struggle it's taken to get where we are today," said Staff Sgt. Shawn Brown, 65th Mission Support Squadron. "Don't take for granted the liberties and freedoms that so many fought for us to have, before we were even born."

"We should celebrate the heart, cour-

age, strength and hindsight our ancestors had. We should celebrate their victories today as they would have wanted us to. Americans should celebrate this month as people who have fought on opposite sides, on the same adored US soil for different reasons and now stand together as the strongest union in the world today."

Team Lajes members can celebrate black history month by attending some events throughout the month.

The events are:

Sunday: noon, gospel service at the base chapel

Tuesday: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., fish fry at the chapel. To pre-order or for more information, call Staff Sgt. Shana Stewart at 2-3464.

Thursday: 5 p.m., SUM 'soul food' dinner at the base chapel.

Feb. 25: 6 p.m., African American History Banquet at the Top of the Rock Club.

Feb. 28: 7 p.m., Live band and poetry reading at The Top of the Rock Club.

Events throughout black history

1619 - Aug. 20, Twenty Africans arrived in Jamestown, Virginia, aboard a Dutch ship. They were the first blacks to be forcibly settled as involuntary laborers in the North American British Colonies.

1777 - July 2, Vermont was the first state to abolish slavery. Dec. 31, George Washington reversed previous policy and allowed the recruitment of blacks as soldiers. Some 5,000 would participate on the American side before the end of the Revolution.

1793 - March 14, Eli Whitney obtained a patent for his cotton gin, a device that paved the way for the massive expansion of slavery in the South.

1818 - Aug. 18, General Andrew Jackson defeated a force of Native Americans and African-Americans to end the First Seminole War.

1849 - July, Harriet Tubman escaped from slavery. She would return South at least twenty times, leading over 300 slaves to freedom.

1865 - Dec. 18, The Thirteenth Amendment, outlawing slavery, was passed by Congress; July 28, The Fourteenth Amendment was passed. It made blacks citizens of the United States.

1936 - Aug. 9, Jesse Owens won four gold medals at the Summer Olympics in Berlin.

1937 - June 22, Joe Louis defeated James J. Braddock to become heavyweight boxing champion of the world.

1940 - Oct. 16, Benjamin O. Davis, Sr., became the first black general in the United States Army.

1947 - April 19, Jackie Robinson became the first black major league baseball player.

1950 - Sept. 22, Ralph J. Bunche won the Nobel Peace Prize for his work as a mediator in Palestine.

1955 - Dec. 1, Rosa Parks refused to change seats in a Montgomery, Ala., bus. On Dec. 5 blacks began a boycott of the bus system which continued until shortly after Dec. 13, 1956, when the United States Supreme Court outlawed bus segregation in the city.

1963 - Aug. 28, The March on Washington was the largest civil rights demonstration ever. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his "I Have

a Dream" speech.

1965 - Feb. 21, Malcolm X was assassinated in Harlem by members of the Nation of Islam.

1968 - April 4, Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. In the following week riots occurred in at least 125 places throughout the country.

1969 - Oct. 29, The Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation in schools had to end at once and unitary school systems were required.

1971 - March 24, The Southern Regional Council reported that desegregation in Southern schools was the rule, not the exception.

1974 - April 8, Henry Aaron hit his 715th home run to become the all-time leading hitter of home runs.

1986 - Jan. 20, The first national Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday was celebrated.

1987 - Frederick Drew Gregory was the first black person to command a space shuttle.

1990 - Feb. 11, Nelson Mandela, South African Black Nationalist, was freed after 27 years in prison.

1992 - Sept. 12, Mae C. Jemison was first black American woman in space on board the space shuttle Endeavor.

1993 - Sept. 7, M. Joycelyn Elders became the first black person and the first woman United States Surgeon General; Oct. 7, Toni Morrison was the first black American to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.

1998 - Jan. 15, Civil rights veteran James Farmer was one of 15 men and women awarded the Medal of Freedom from President Clinton. Jan. 18, Now an annual observance, the New York Stock Exchange closed, for the first time, in honor of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Sept. 21, Track star Florence Griffith Joyner died at the age of 38. In the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games, Griffith became the first American woman to win four track and field medals.

2000 - December, Condoleezza Rice takes the position of foreign policy adviser for President-Elect George W. Bush.

2001 - Jan. 20, Colin L. Powell is sworn in by President George W. Bush as Secretary of State.

2005 - Condoleezza Rice is sworn in by President George W. Bush as Secretary of State.

Great hosts



Portuguese employees eat at the Air Base 4 dining facility, bldg. E-818, while the Tradewinds Dining Facility is being renovated. Meal hours for the 65th Air Base Wing and the Portuguese employees at the Portuguese dining facility is breakfast, 7:30-8:30 a.m.; lunch, 12:30-13:30 p.m.; and supper, 6-7 p.m. Breakfast is 8-9 a.m. on the weekends. (Photo by Guido Melo)

LOOK SHARP!

According to AFI 36-2903, Table 1.4 - Personal grooming standards, beards will not be worn except for health reasons when authorized by a commander on the advice of a medical officer. If a commander authorizes, members keep facial hair trimmed not to exceed 1/4 inch in length. Individuals granted a shaving waiver will not shave any facial hair. Commanders and supervisors will monitor progress in treatment to control these waivers.

Personal grooming regulations apply on- and off-duty.



(Above) Lucas Cruz, prepares to cut fresh baked bread for the spaghetti dinner during the lock-in at the youth center Feb. 4.

(Right) Vania Silva, bowling center employee, hands a pair of shoes to John Pierce. The 37 children who attended the lock-in went bowling at the bowling center.



Games, food, fun ...

Nearly 40 children sleep over during lock-in



(Above) Tierra Jones gets ready to throw a ball during dodgeball at the youth center lock-in. (Right) Bethanne Meyerden and Brittany Brannon play cards during the lock-in. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Olenda Kleffner)



Policy changes may affect board release dates

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — A recent policy change may result in officers waiting an additional two to six months for promotion board results.

The policy will not, however, affect actual promotion pin-on dates.

The Senate Armed Services Committee previously confirmed promotion lists within three months of the board, regardless of the actual pin-on dates.

Under the old procedures, the Air Force secretary and chief of staff were briefed on the results of promotion boards, and the list continued through the coordination process to the secretary of defense for approval. Once approved, the results were released to the public, regardless of when the first promotion increment occurred, officials said.

Once publicly released, the nomination was released to the White House and then to the Senate committee. The nomination lists remained in the committee until 90 days before the first promotion date and then sent to the full Senate for confirmation.

The new procedures will remain the same up to the point where they go to the secretary of defense. At that point, any list of Airmen not scheduled for promotion within 9 months will be returned to the Air Force Personnel Center and held until the first day of the ninth month before the promotions begin. The nomination package will then be returned to Secretary of Defense for signature and released to the public.

This change is expected to affect a small number of boards and competitive categories, personnel center officials said.

Based on the current five-year promotion plan, this new procedure will delay the release of the 2004 major officer line and nurse corps boards by four and six months, respectively. The tentative release of the line officer results is May 2005. The nurse corps release is tentatively projected for July 2005.

For more information, visit www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/offprom/.

Tops in Blue seeks musicians

SAN ANTONIO (AFPN) — There are lots of words that spring to mind when you think of Tops in Blue, the Air Force's premier entertainment group, said Jeri White, Tops in Blue production coordinator at Air Force Services Agency here.

"You think of 'high energy,' 'world renown,' even 'expeditionary,'" she said. "You think of 'singers,' 'dancers' and 'comedians.'"

But one phrase you never use to describe Tops in Blue is "a capella."

"It's all about the music," Ms. White said. "The singers can't sing without it, and the dancers can't dance without it. It's the beat that keeps Tops in Blue whirling around the stage and thrilling audiences worldwide."

"We're looking to fill a complete band," Ms. White said. "We need keyboard players, drummers and guitarists. We also need to fill the horn and rhythm sections."

Contestants do not need professional training to qualify, she said.

"They can be self-taught and don't have to be able to read music," Ms. White said. "All they need is talent and a strong desire to improve during the touring season."

Tops in Blue is an all-Air Force entertainment troupe that provides a free, high-energy, 90-minute musical extravaganza to military forces stationed worldwide. In its mission to boost morale, the team visits more than 120 locations worldwide in more than 30 countries, entertaining more than 350,000 military and family members from May to February each year.

During its 50-year history, Tops in Blue has performed at six world fairs and at more than 100 state fairs and festivals. The troupe has performed in six Bob Hope specials and in for more than 250,000 people at the 2002 Daytona 500 auto race. It appeared before a live and broadcast audience of 110 million people during the halftime show at Super Bowl XIX.

"Our goal is simple," said Tom Edwards, director of Air Force Entertainment, "to reach as many people as possible and to thank them for their commitment to the Air Force."

Now is the time for Air Force instrumentalists, as well as singers, dancers and comedians to compete for spots in this elite group. The Worldwide Talent Contest is March 6 to 14 at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Besides competing for recognition as the best performers in five separate categories, participants also will vie for 30 positions in Tops in Blue 2005.

Although the application deadline has passed, people still interested in competing in the Air Force Talent Contest and auditioning for Tops in Blue 2005 should call the Air Force Entertainment Office at 210-652-6566 or DSN 487-6566. Airmen can obtain an application through the Air Force Services Web site at www.afsv.af.mil.

Videotapes will be reviewed at the agency officials, and those individuals who display talents that the judges feel can best support the team will be invited to compete in March. Funding for the contest is provided by Air Force Services, including permissive temporary duty, travel and lodging.

DOD seeks people with language, regional expertise

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — If you speak a foreign language or have the desire and aptitude to learn one, Uncle Sam wants you.

Defense Department officials are looking for people with language skills to support not only current operations, but future ones as well, said Gail McGinn, deputy undersecretary of defense for plans.

And just as important as language skills, she said, is an understanding of other countries' geographies, cultures and people.

The military has the greatest language and cultural expertise in four primary languages: German, French, Spanish and Russian, Ms. McGinn said. But when the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, thrust the United States into the war on terrorism, the department simply did not have enough linguists fluent in Arabic or in Dari and Pashtu, the languages of Afghanistan, she said. Similarly, she said, DOD has come up short on linguists for other areas of the world that have attracted increased U.S. interest during the war on terrorism.

"The global war on terror ... made us realize that we need these capabilities, and we need people to have these skills," she said.

Language and cultural skills help servicemembers interact with the local people, Ms. McGinn said. Civil affairs specialists and interpreters deployed throughout Iraq are demonstrating the value of those skills daily as they interact with local citizens and their leaders.

But if more servicemembers had language skills, the operational payoff could be tremendous, she said. For example, when coalition troops were headed north toward Baghdad at the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, what if the local people had information they wanted to share? And what if the U.S. troops wanted to warn them about something, or to diffuse a situation?

Integrating foreign language and regional expertise into the military mindset will have far-reaching implications, Ms. McGinn said, affecting "the way we conduct operations, and the way we conduct ourselves in the world."

History project looking for basic-training photos

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. (AFPN) — It is not often when someone has a chance to peer into the past, present and future at the same time. Fortunately, the vision of an Air Force historian has done just that with the creation of an online repository of Air Force basic training flight graduation photos.

Tech. Sgt. Tracy English, a 37th Training Wing historian at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, said he recognized that a part of the Air Force's history, basic training flights photos, was becoming lost to the ravages of time. Knowing this, he decided to try and retrieve as many images as possible before they were lost forever. Sergeant English set out to find the contractors who were hired to take each flight graduation photo.

The project is a way to help the Air Force and Airmen alike trace their roots, he said. It seeks to collect all of about 119,000 U.S. Air Force basic training flight photos from the inception of the Air Force in 1947 to present.

The collection includes photos from all the bases that conducted Air Force basic training including Lackland; Sampson AFB, N.Y.; Parks AFB, Calif.; Amarillo AFB, Texas; and Sheppard AFB, Texas.

Since the project started, Sergeant English said his office has received roughly 120 pieces of mail and 600 e-mail messages every month with people asking for specific photographs or sending photos to be published on the Web site.

Airmen may look for their graduation photo online at <http://www.lackland.af.mil/info/photos.asp>

People can submit high-quality scanned images via e-mail to 37TRW@Lackland.af.mil. Hard copies can be sent through the U.S. mail system to: 37TRW/HO, 1650 Carswell Ave., Lackland AFB, TX 78236.

People who have an oversized photo can scan it in halves (or copy both halves) and send them in.

The history office staff said they can put them together and get them into the archives and online.



COMMENTARY

How to eat for less than \$10 a day at Lajes

By Maj. Steve Rickert
65th Services Squadron
commander

When the dining facility closed for renovation, our military meal card-holders started seeing a bigger paycheck to offset the cost of eating out.

As a commander, I wanted to see if our troops could live on their allowance of about \$9.80 a day for food, so I checked into the options. I found there are lots of places to eat affordably, and the challenge of finding three meals a day on less than \$10 isn't that much of a challenge after all.

For breakfast, the Flight Kitchen now offers eggs, pancakes, French toast, bacon, sausage and other items to U.S. military members – a complete breakfast can be bought for \$2 or less. Burger King offers breakfast sandwiches with egg and meats, and the Portuguese Terminal has a limited breakfast menu in the café upstairs.

Lunch options abound at the Top of the Rock Club. The daily buffet or the sandwich and salad specials offer a great deal, especially for club members who get a dollar off by showing their club card. Members also get \$8 worth of coupons in their monthly "Services At-A-Glance" magazine. Additionally, the Oceanview Grill has pizza, burgers, salads and daily specials for a wide variety of affordable choices. Right next door at the Commissary deli shop, sandwiches are available or there's Frank's Franks at the base exchange. Subway fits the bill for a hearty

appetite and Burger King fills the craving for a taste of home. Most of these options are around \$5-6 or less.

Supper is often the most expensive meal, yet even this can be found for reasonable prices around base. The Club is a best-value choice, with nightly specials from the dining room such as 2-4-1 steak night on Thursday before Karaoke, or burgers and salads from the "Bits and Bites" bar menu in the lounge. The bar also offers economical pizza by the slice. The Oceanview Grill also has dinner options at very reasonable prices, such as the steak, roasted turkey breast or fish sandwiches all priced at less than \$5. Dinner prices vary to suit taste, but need not break the bank.

So I have about \$10 to eat for a day. Here's my sample menu:

Breakfast at the Flight Kitchen with scrambled eggs, sausage, French toast and coffee – total cost: \$1.

Lunch at the Club with homestyle buffet of chicken, vegetables, dessert and drink: \$5.95. Of course, I'm using my club card discount because I can save more in meals than I pay in dues.

Supper at the Oceanview with 2-piece fried chicken pollo loco combo, salad and drink: \$3.75.

Total cost for my daily meals: \$10.75 and this was for three large meals, more than I typically eat.

So the next day, I needed to eat cheap and here's my sample menu:

Breakfast at the Flight

Where to eat at Lajes

Burger King: 7 a.m.-11 p.m. Mon.-Thu.; 7 a.m.-12:30 a.m. Fri.; 8 a.m.-12:30 a.m. Sat.; 8 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Sun.

Flight Kitchen: Breakfast 7-9 a.m.; Midnight Meal 11 p.m.-1 a.m. Mon.-Sun.

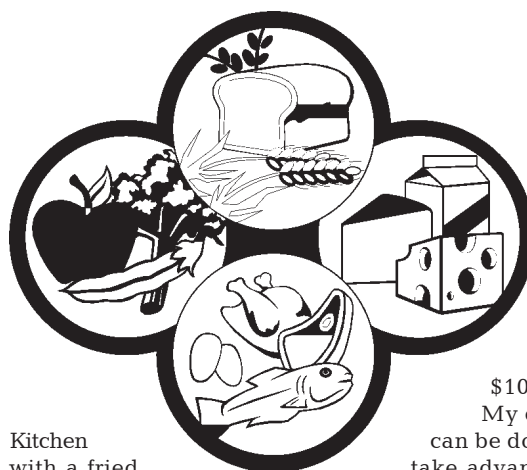
Commissary: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon.-Wed., Sat.; 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Thu.

Subway: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Sat.; noon-6 p.m. Sun.

Frank's Franks: 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Tues.-Sat.

Oceanview Island Grill: 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Mon.-Sun.

Top of the Rock Club: Lunch 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; brunch 8:30 a.m.-noon, Sat.; dinner 5-9 p.m., Tue.-Sat.



Average cost for these two days: \$9.80 with plenty of food and a balance of healthy choices as well as good-tasting treats for less than \$10 a day.

Kitchen with a fried egg, bacon, pancakes, hash browns and coffee: \$1.40.

Lunch from the Commissary deli with a ham and cheese sandwich and a can of soda: \$1.50.

Supper from the TORC with two slices of pizza from the bar and a beer: \$5.95.

Total cost to eat for the day: \$8.85.

My conclusion is it can be done, if our folks take advantage of all the options available and eat smart. By using the Commissary for things they can eat in their room such as cereal and milk for breakfast, microwave entrees for dinner, etc. the average person should be able to eat very well within their basic subsistence allowance and still enjoy treating themselves to supper at the club as often as they like.

CROSSROADS

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Facts about Terceira, Azores

Who discovered the Azores and how long has the archipelago been inhabited by the Portuguese?

The discovery of the Azores, according to Genoese maps of the 14th century, seems to have taken place between 1317 and 1339 by Portuguese and Genoese navigators in the service of the Portuguese kingdom.

This discovery seems, however, to have remained overlooked up to almost a century when the Portuguese navigator Diogo de Silves later claimed the discovery of the islands around 1427. The name Azores (Açores in Portuguese) probably comes from the Portuguese word "Açor" (goshawk), a big and powerful hawk that was sighted in great numbers by the navigators who discovered the archipelago. Colonization of the island of Santa Maria, the first to be discovered, began in 1439 and was followed by the colonization of the other islands.

The background of the first inhabitants is varied. While most came from the Portuguese mainland, others are descendants of the Flemish from Flanders who settled mainly on Terceira, Faial and Pico and from Brittany or Bretagne, a former province of northwest France, who came to the island of São Miguel.

Because of their important strategic location, the Azorean islands quickly became important as a port of call for ships sailing the Atlantic Ocean between Europe, Africa, India and the Americas. Christopher Columbus stopped at the Island of Santa Maria in 1493

when returning from one of his voyages to America.

Why is this island called "Terceira"?

This island was named Terceira, which means third, because supposedly it was the third island to be discovered by the Portuguese navigators.

Other historians, however, contend this assertion saying that Terceira received its name because it's the third island in terms of distance from mainland, Portugal, and not necessarily the third island to be discovered by the Portuguese.

Terceira Island was probably discovered between 1439 and 1450. The island and the city of Angra do Heroísmo in particular played an important role in the 15th and 16th centuries as a port of call for the galleons returning from the Americas, Africa and India loaded with treasures and other goods.

Still in relation to the island, I've heard rumors that Terceira Island's base tapers down below the ocean surface into an hourglass or mushroom shape, causing the island to break off and sink into the ocean in case of a major earthquake!

Fortunately, this is not true. According to the Volcanology Center of the Regional Service for Civil Defense of the Azores, the topographical maps of the island and the ocean floor show that the island's base is actually larger than the island itself.

Terceira, like other Azorean islands, is of volcanic origin and its base is an agglomeration of magma.



Everyday Hero Staff Sgt. Shawn Brown 65th Mission Support Squadron

Duty title: Manpower Field Analyst
Job description: Maintains an equal balance of the correct authorizations needed to complete the mission

Time at Lajes: 11 months

What's the best aspect of your job: Gaining understanding of many Air Force jobs

What are your career goals: To leave a lasting impression on the Air Force

Best Air Force experience: Building space suites for the U2 program

Life goal: Live life to the fullest with no regrets and be happy!

Hometown: Philadelphia, Pa

Two words to describe you: Brutally honest

Hobbies: Basketball, painting, drawing, music, traveling,

Favorite food: Soul Food and Italian

Favorite color: Baby blue

Pet peeve: People who beat around the bush, If you have something to say, say it!

No one knows... And they never will
When I was growing up, I wanted to be: I'm still growing up!
If I could have only one kind of food, it would be: Let's hope life never comes to that point.

The first thing I would do if I won a \$1,000,000 is: Well now it wouldn't really be a million and the first thing would be to pay taxes. Then the second would be to find a way for a percentage of it to help our needy kids in the US.

Clinic reference phone numbers

Emergency Services: 800-211-911

911 Off base 295-571-911

Non emergency: 2-3757

Poison Control (Washington):

99-001-202-625-3333

Nurse Health Advice Line

On base 99-800-800-128; then

1-888-866-7943 (follow prompts)

Off Base 800-800-128; ask for

1-888-866-7943 (follow prompts)

Physician on-call after hours

Pager:

On base 2-5000-0429

Off base 295-57-5000-0429

Cellular phone: 91-936-5999

For all other numbers below:

On base dial 2 and last four

Off base dial 295-57 and last 4

Clinic appointment line: 2-3261

Dental clinic: 2-3139

E.D.I.S.: 2-3194

Force Health: 2-5160

Health & Wellness Center: 2-3889

Immunizations: 2-3584

Life Skills/Family Advocacy: 2-4244

Outpatient Records: 2-3239

Patient Advocate: 2-6739

Patient Liaison: 2-4295

Pharmacy: 2-3635

Refills: 2-6281

Physical Therapy: 2-6286

Public Health: 2-3464

Red Cross: 2-3516

TRICARE Service Center: 2-2262

Veterinary Clinic: 2-3134

WIC: 2-1440

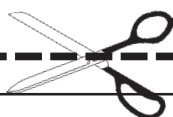
TRICARE on-line appointments:

www.tricareonline.com

Optometry: 2-3554

Cashier Cage: 2-1233

Clinic Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.



Change in workout

Chief Master Sgt. Alfonso Martinez and Master Sgt. James Teastor, both from the 65th Communications Squadron, work out at the Skating Rink Feb. 4. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle Michaud)

Fitness annex hours through Feb. 19:

Mon.-Fri. 5:30 a.m.-midnight
Sat.-Sun. 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

After Feb. 19:

Mon.-Fri. 6 a.m.-9 p.m.
Sat. 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
Sun. Closed

Chace Fitness Center hours through Feb. 19:

Mon.-Fri. 5 a.m.-9 p.m.
Sat. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sun. Closed

After Feb. 19:

Mon.-Fri. 5 a.m.-2 a.m.
Sat. and Sun. 8 a.m.-7 p.m.



Playing blind

(Above) Jeremy Kolb, 65th Operations Support Squadron, slides to hit the volleyball Jan. 29, during the blind volleyball tournament at the Chace Fitness Center while his teammates, Joshua Daniel Austin, Noah Schweich and David Longval, watch.

(Left) Eric Morgan, 65th Mission Support Squadron, jumps to spike the ball during the tournament. The 65th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department won the tournament. (Photos by Mario Levardi)

